

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

USIA-15 AGR-20 SIL-01 LAB-06 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 H-03

PA-03 PRS-01 OIC-04 EB-11 RSR-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 /195 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 889

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP- CONSULTATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 141247

1. SUMMARY: MEETING CHAIRED BY US AND ATTENDED REPS ALL MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS CONSIDERED NETH PROPOSAL FOR INFORMAL DC/LDC EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND, BRIEFLY, ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (ICSC). GROUP CAUTIOUSLY FAVORABLE TO NETH PROPOSAL AND WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL IN GREATER DETAIL SCHEDULED HOLD INITIAL MEETING AUG. 20. END SUMMARY.

2. DISCUSSION OF NETH PROPOSAL WHICH WAS LED BY AMBASSADOR ROSENBERG POLAK NETH MISSION CHIEF INCLUDED STATEMENT OF VIEWS BY ALL MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS EACH OF WHOM EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS BUT INDICATED CAUTIOUS APPROVAL OF PROCEEDING FURTHER WITH NETH INITIATIVE. FRENCH REP WAS THE MOST DOUBTFUL BUT, IN BALANCE, PREPARED ACCEPT CONCEPT PROVIDING A NUMBER QUESTIONS OR UNCLEAR ASPECTS COULD BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. THE FRENCH REP WONDERED WHETHER GG MANDATE SUFFICIENTLY BROAD AND WHETHER NETH WOULD APPROACH LDCS, IN QUESTION, IN NAME OF GG, OR IN NAME NETH GOV AND OTHERS OR WHAT? FRENCH ALSO
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CONCERNED ABOUT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS AND

EXPRESSED OPINION, SUPPORTED BY A FEW OTHERS, THAT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE THAN REPS FROM CAPITALS (VIEWPOINTS ABOUT EVENLY DIVIDED ON THIS WITH NETH WEIGHING BALANCE IN FAVOR OF REPS FROM CAPITALS, AT LEAST INSOFAR AS DC REPRESENTATION CONCERNED). FRENCH AND A NUMBER OF OTHERS WONDERED WHETHER A MEETING IN GENEVA OR VIENNA WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO ONE AT THE HAGUE. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BE SMALL BUT THAT THE ACTUAL SIZE WOULD DEPEND UPON THE NUMBER OF LDC PARTICIPANTS WHOSE NUMBERS SHOULD BE MATCHED BY DC REPS.

3. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON THE QUESTION OF SELECTION OF LDCS. THE JAPANESE FELT THAT THE COUNTRIES SUGGESTED BY NETH WERE MODERATE AND WERE THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BE AMENABLE BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER THEY WOULD BE INFLUENTIAL WITH THE HARD CORE OF THE 77. FRANCE, GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND REFERRED TO NEED FOR BETTER GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION. CANADA SUGGESTED BRAZIL AS A WORTHWHILE CANDIDATE.

4. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AGENDA OF SUCH A MEETING AND REFERRED AGAIN TO THE SOMEWHAT RESTRICTED AREA OF INTEREST OF GENEVA GROUP. MOST WANTED TO AVOID ANY KIND OF CONFRONTATION ON LEGAL OR POLITICAL MATTERS UK REP WANTED TO BE ASSURED THAT NETH WAS NOT PROPOSING ANY KIND OF DISSOLUTION OR BREAK DOWN OF CURRENT GENEVA GROUP ARRANGEMENT.

5. REPLYING TO COMMENTS ROSENBERG POLAK MADE CLEAR THAT WHAT NETH HAD IN MIND WAS WHAT COULD BE CALLED A COUNTRY HOUSE WEEKEND FOR RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL REPS, PREFERABLY FROM GOVERNMENTS WHO WOULD MOSTLY BE UNACCOMPANIED BY STAFF. MEETING WOULD DISCUSS PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS OF UN SYSTEM AND THEN GET DOWN TO PRACTICAL MATTERS SUCH AS IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY. NETH GOV PROPOSED TO HOST AND PROVIDE LOCATION FOR INITIAL SUCH MEETING. NUMBERS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO 6 OR 7 FROM EACH SIDE (DC AND LDC) ALTHOUGH PROBABLY REPS FROM FULL MEMBERSHIP OF GG COULD BE ACCOMMODATED. MEETING WOULD BE COMPLETELY INFORMAL WITH NO MINUTES, AGREED REPORTS COMMUNIQUE, ETC. ALTHOUGH UNCLASSIFIED

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NETH CHAIRMAN MIGHT SEND AROUND TO INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED A PRIVATE AND UNOFFICIAL SUMMARY OF HIS IMPRESSIONS. TIME FRAME YET TO BE WORKED OUT BUT THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE MEETING SOMETIME BEFORE NEXT CONSULTATION LEVEL GENEVA GROUP IN FEB OR MARCH. THIS NETH INITIATIVE WAS IN NO WAY INTENDED TO BREAK DOWN OR ALTER CURRENT GENEVA GROUP ARRANGEMENTS. ALTHOUGH SOME THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO FLOATING NETH PROPOSAL INWEO OR GROUP B, THE NETH GOV HAD DECIDED THAT CLOSER MUTUAL INTEREST OF GENEVA

GROUP MADE THAT BODY THE MORE APPROPRIATE SPONSOR. HOWEVER, QUESTION OF WHETHER GG AS SUCH SHOULD BE NAMED IN APPROACHES TO LDCS, WAS A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED IN GG WORKING GROUP ON SUBJECT.

6. PUSHING SOMEWHAT VIGOROUSLY AHEAD WITH HIS GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE ROSENBERG POLAK SUGGESTED FOUR MEETINGS OF OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP TO BE CHAIREC BY HIMSELF WITH MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR AUG 20, 22, 27 AND 29. ALTHOUGH GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS WERE A BIT STARTLED BY THIS AMBITIOUS SCHEDULE, IT WAS TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DATE AUG 20 FOR THE FIRST MEETING WAS FIRM AND THAT THE SUBSEQUENT DATES COULD BE CONFIRMED LATER.

7. ON SUBJECT OF ICSC GERMANS AND AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE CIRCULATED PAPERS REPRESENTING THEIR GOVERNMENTS VIEWPOINT BELATEDLY RESPONSIVE TO THE QUERY MADE TO GOVS BY THE CONSULTATION LEVEL MEETING IN MARCH. COPIES THESE VIEWPOINTS FORWARDED DEPT UNDER SEPARATE COVER. NETH REP, RECALLING THAT AT EARLIER GENEVA GROUP MEETING HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN POSITION THAT ICSC SHOULD HAVE ONLY ADVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES, STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SAY THAT NETH NOW PREPARED SUPPORT WHAT HE TERMED AS THE UNITED STATES VIEW AS EXPRESSED TO 55TH ECOSOC I.E. ICSC SHOULD HAVE REGULATORY AS WELL AS ADVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES.

8. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT, AS MATTER OF ICSC WAS NOW IN HANDS OF ACABQ AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, GROUP'S CONCERN WOULD HENCEFORTH BE LIMITED TO EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

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